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RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/53/L.1 and Add.1 and A/53/L.2/Rev.1 and Rev.1/Add.1)*]

53/1. Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

A

ASSISTANCE TO BANGLADESH IN THE WAKE OF THE DEVASTATING FLOODS

The General Assembly,

Deeply concerned about the loss of human life and the unprecedented destruction of property and infrastructure caused in recent weeks by the worst floods ever in Bangladesh,

Considering that Bangladesh is one of the least developed countries and that its situation has been worsened by the frequent recurrence of natural disasters having devastating consequences,

Recognizing that natural disasters constitute a development problem of great magnitude, the solution of which calls for substantial resources, requiring national efforts to be supplemented by international financial and technical assistance,

Recognizing also the large-scale relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the Government and the people of Bangladesh to alleviate the suffering of disaster victims and to put the country back on the road to development,

Conscious of the fact that international assistance and investment over time are required to mitigate and prevent the consequences of such disasters,

Noting the appeal made by the Secretary-General to the international community for help and assistance for the flood-affected people of Bangladesh,

Noting also the appeal to the international community made by the Prime Minister and the Government of Bangladesh to come forward with assistance in order to help the country to recover from the disastrous floods,

1. *Expresses its solidarity* with the Government and the people of Bangladesh, who are bravely facing the disaster;

2. *Appeals* to all Member States, specialized agencies and other organs and bodies of the United Nations system, as well as international financial institutions and non-governmental organizations, to respond urgently and generously in order to assist Bangladesh in its relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts and programmes following the unprecedented calamity;

3. *Expresses its gratitude* to Member States, international organizations within and outside the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and individuals and groups that have so generously assisted the Government of Bangladesh in its immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts;

4. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the urgent steps he has taken to mobilize humanitarian assistance and to coordinate activities of the United Nations agencies in the field for purposeful and unified assistance by the international community, and requests him to continue these efforts through effective measures;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to take all necessary measures to provide support and assistance to Bangladesh in order to strengthen its capacity for disaster preparedness and prevention programmes and to implement its plans and programmes for seeking a long-term and effective solution to the problems caused by floods and other natural disasters.

23rd plenary meeting
1 October 1998

B

Emergency assistance to Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 42/169 of 11 December 1987, 43/202 of 20 December 1988, 44/236 of 22 December 1989, 45/185 of 21 December 1990, 46/149 of 18 December 1991, 46/182 of 19 December 1991, 48/188 of 21 December 1993, 49/22 A of 2 December 1994, 49/21 P of 18 September 1995 and 52/169 A to M of 16 December 1997,

Deeply distressed by the loss of life, the large number of afflicted people and the destruction wrought by hurricane Georges, which from 20 to 22 September 1998 devastated Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, St. Kitts and Nevis and several other countries and Territories of the region,

Conscious of the efforts of the Governments and the peoples of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis to save lives and alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the hurricane,

Noting the enormous effort that will be required to alleviate the grave situation caused by this natural disaster,

Conscious of the prompt response being made by Governments, the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system, international and regional agencies, non-governmental organizations and private individuals to provide relief,

Recognizing that the magnitude of the disaster and its medium- and long-term effects will require, as a complement to the efforts being made by the peoples and the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis, a demonstration of international solidarity and humanitarian concern to ensure broad multilateral cooperation in order to face the immediate emergency situation in the affected areas and to initiate the process of reconstruction,

1. *Expresses its support* for the efforts of the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis and its solidarity with their peoples as they cope with the disaster;

2. *Expresses its appreciation* to all States of the international community, international agencies and non-governmental organizations that are providing emergency relief to the affected countries;

3. *Urges* all States of the international community, as a matter of urgency, to contribute generously to the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in the affected countries and to provide financing for the national and regional relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts being undertaken by the affected countries using their own and pooled human resources;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in collaboration with the international financial institutions and bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, to assist the Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and St. Kitts and Nevis in identifying their medium- and long-term needs and in mobilizing resources, as well as to help with the task of rehabilitation and reconstruction of the affected countries undertaken by their respective Governments;

5. *Requests* the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other multilateral organizations to provide support and assistance in the strengthening of the disaster preparedness and prevention capacities of the countries of the region;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly, under agenda item 20, through the Economic and Social Council at the next humanitarian questions segment of its substantive session, on the collaborative effort referred to in paragraphs 4 and 5 above and on the progress made with the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts of the affected countries.

28th plenary meeting
5 October 1998